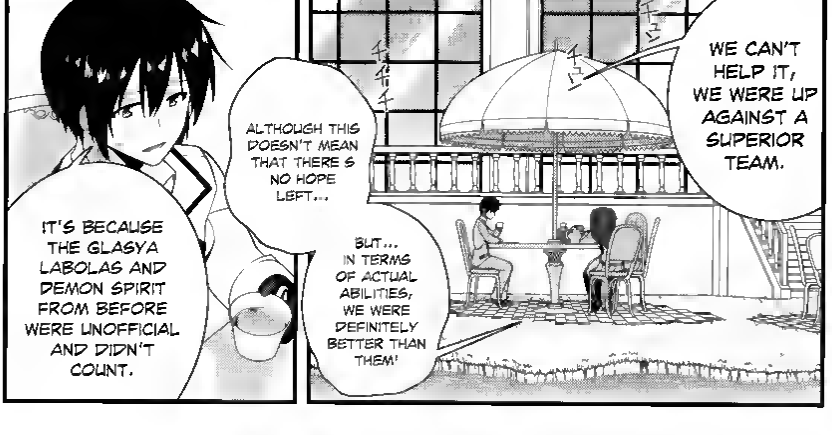
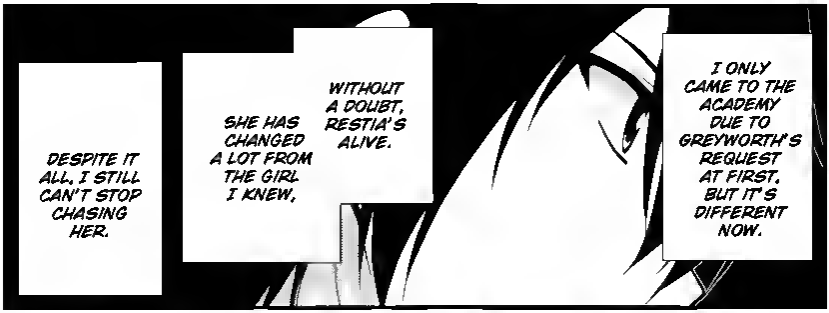
精霊使いの剣舞
NOM NOM NOM...
GAH, OUR TEAM'S RANKING FELL AGAIN!
CLAIRE, THAT'S MY JAM BUN.
[漫画] 氷樹一世
[原作] 志瑞祐
[キャラクター原案] 桜はんぺん
16話


JUST AFTER THEY WERE DEFEATED...
IT'S BECAUSE THE GLASYA LABOLAS AND DEMON SPIRIT FROM BEFORE WERE UNOFFICIAL AND DIDN'T COUNT.
ALTHOUGH THIS DOESN'T MEAN THAT THERE'S NO HOPE LEFT...
BUT... IN TERMS OF ACTUAL ABILITIES, WE WERE DEFINITELY BETTER THAN THEM!
WE CAN'T HELP IT, WE WERE UP AGAINST A SUPERIOR TEAM.

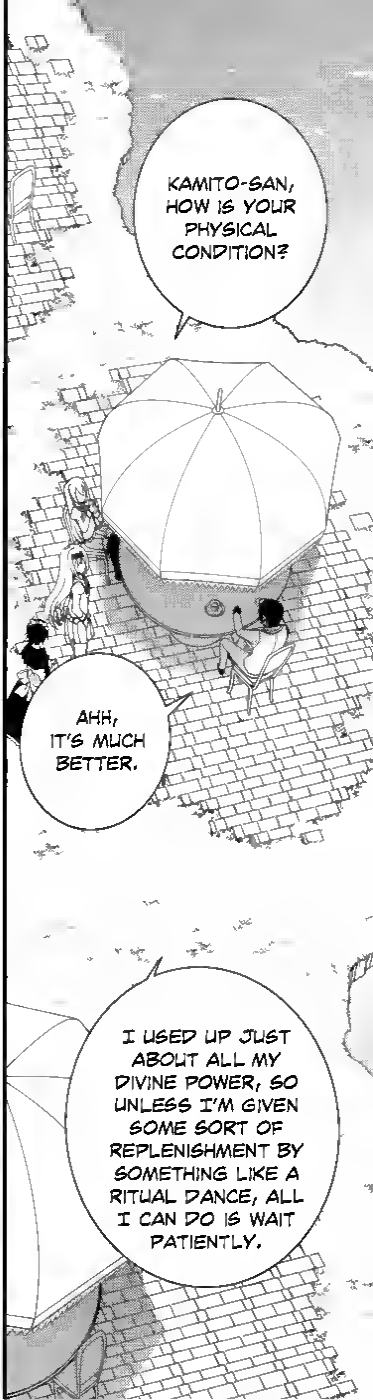
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO REACH TOP THREE TO BE ADMITTED INTO, MUCH LESS WIN THE BLADE DANCE AT THIS RATE.
I REALIZED THAT AT THE MATCH TODAY!
FIRST OF ALL, SHOULDN'T WE FIND A NEW MEMBER SOON?


DESPITE IT ALL, I STILL CAN'T STOP CHASING HER.
SHE HAS CHANGED A LOT FROM THE GIRL I KNEW,
WITHOUT A DOUBT, RESTIA'S ALIVE.
I ONLY CAME TO THE ACADEMY DUE TO GREYWORTH'S REQUEST AT FIRST. BUT IT'S DIFFERENT NOW.

SUCH A SERIOUS FACE, WHAT'S WRONG?
NAH... SORRY, NEVER-MIND...

IS IT YOUR FORMER CONTRACTED SPIRIT, BY ANY CHANCE?

ALRIGHT.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT, SAY IT CLEARLY.
YOU ARE REALLY HELPFUL WHEN YOU SAY THAT ...
OH?
WHY ARE YOU HERE, RINSLET?
YOU'RE ALL HAVING LUNCH?
I JUST HAPPENED TO BE PASSING BY.
ISN'T THAT A SURPRISINGLY MODEST MEAL?
OJOU-SAMA IS ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT HOW SHE WOULD LIKE TO EAT WITH YOU!


KAMITO-SAN, HOW IS YOUR PHYSICAL CONDITION?
AHH, IT'S MUCH BETTER.
I USED UP JUST ABOUT ALL MY DIVINE POWER, SO UNLESS I'M GIVEN SOME SORT OF REPLENISHMENT BY SOMETHING LIKE A RITUAL DANCE, ALL I CAN DO IS WAIT PATIENTLY.

FUFU... OJOU-SAMA HAS BEEN WORRY-ING ABOUT KAMITO-SAMA ALL THE TIME!
CAROL, PLEASE DON'T SAYING UNNECESSARY THINGS!

NOW... THAT REMINDS ME, APPARENTLY WE GOT A NEW STUDENT IN RAVEN CLASS.
EVEN THOUGH KAMITO JUST GOT ADMITTED.

EHH, SHE'S GOT NO SOCIAL STATUS OF NOTE AT ALL.
BUT I HEARD SHE USED A HOLY SPIRIT AT THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.
A HOLY SPIRIT?
THEY ARE NICE TO HAVE, THOSE PRIDEFUL SPIRITS.

BUT TALKING ABOUT HIGH SOCIAL STATUS... FAHRENGART OR LAURENFROST ARE STILL ABSOLUTE BARGAINS!
HEY... WILL YOU STOP THROWING US TOGETHER WITH A MILITARY FAMILY LIKE THE FAHRENGARTS?

YOU KNOW HOLY SPIRITS WELL, KAMITO-SAN?
AS FOR HOLY SPIRITS, WE HAD A HARD FIGHT IN THE COMPETITION THREE YEARS AGO DUE TO THE BAD COMPATIBILITY WITH MY DARKNESS SPIRIT...
NAH... WELL, WHAT I KNOW IS TEXTBOOK LEVEL.

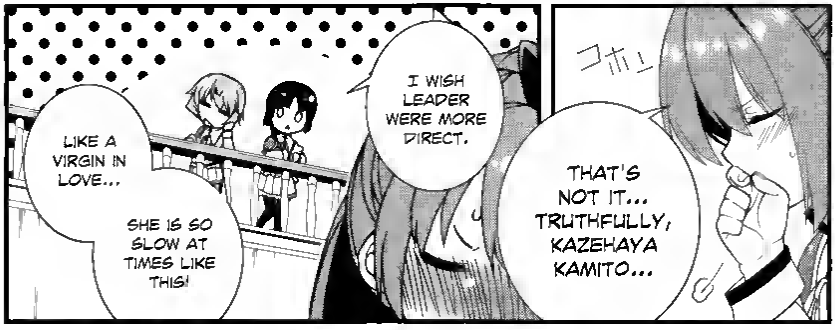
WHAT?
IF YOU WANT TO INSULT THE FAHRENGARTS, SHOULDN'T WE AGREE ON A DUEL FIRST?
NOW THE NAG ARRIVED AS WELL.

AH!
COME TO THINK OF IT...

HEY, WAIT! WE WON'T DO IT AGAIN, SORRY!
IF IT'S ABOUT A REMATCH, ANY TIME'S ALRIGHT!
WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS DOES KNIGHT LEADER-SAMA HAVE?

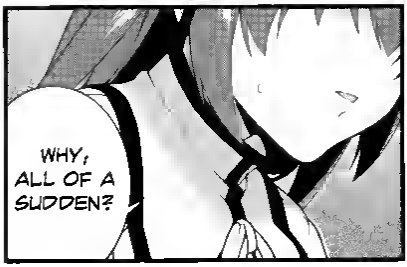
IT SEEMS YOU LOST THE MATCH THIS MORNING, AND HORRIBLY AT THAT.
WHAT, ARE YOU LOOKING FOR TROUBLE AFTER ALL?

RIGHT NOW, I REALLY WANT TO DO IT, BUT...
KAZEHAYA KAMITO!
I'VE GOT A JOB FOR YOU.
ME?


I WISH LEADER WERE MORE DIRECT.
LIKE A VIRGIN IN LOVE...
SHE IS SO SLOW AT TIMES LIKE THIS!
THAT'S NOT IT... TRUTHFULLY, KAZEHAYA KAMITO...

SORRY, ELLIS...
FOR THAT WOMAN'S AN ILLUSION!
DO- DON'T MOCK ME! TOWARD SUCH INSOLENT FELLOWS, I...
わっ
CERTAINLY, THE INCIDENT THE OTHER DAY CHANGED MY IMPRESSION... BUT WHO I ADMIRE ARE PURE AND POWERFUL WOMEN LIKE THE STRONGEST BLADE DANCER!
SHUT UP, I KNOW!!
IT'S FINE, SO GET TO THE POINT QUICKLY!
IN OTHER WORDS...
TO SUM IT UP...
THAT...
WHA- WHAT IS IT?
KAZEHAYA KAMITO...

I-I-
I WANT YOU!
WHA- WHAT WASN'T WHAT YOU MEANT!?
I-IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! THAT WASN'T WHAT I MEANT JUST NOW!
WHA... WHAWHA WHAWHA ...

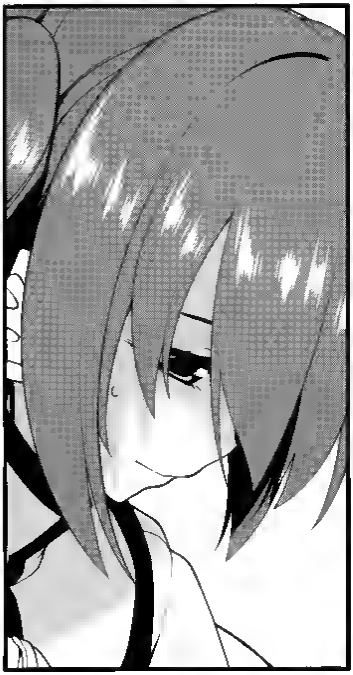

WHY, ALL OF A SUDDEN?

WHAT... DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
I WANT TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR TEAM.
BECAUSE WITH THE ABILITY YOU SHOWED BRINGING DOWN THAT MILITARY SPIRIT, THERE CAN BE NO OBJECTIONS.

KAZEHAYA KAMITO... WILL YOU JOIN OUR TEAM?
EH?

ELLIS... I...
NO WAY!
BUT...
ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL AND JOINING THE TOP-CLASS ELLIS' TEAM WOULD DRASTICALLY ENHANCE MY CHANCES TO WIN THE QUALIFIERS FOR THE BLADE DANCE
IT'S NOT A BAD DEAL WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT LOGI-

CLAIRE... YOU...
SINCE THAT FELLOW IS MY CONTRACTED SPIRIT...
ﾀｰﾝ
BECAUSE BEING BETRAYED AGAIN WOULD B—
SO SHE TRIES NOT TO RELY ON OTHERS,
AND NOW SHE'S SCARED... AT THE THOUGHT OF BEING ABANDONED AGAIN.
BEING BETRAYED BY HER OLDER SISTER RUBIA MUST HAVE LEFT A DEEP SCAR IN HER HEART.
THAT'S RIGHT..



I SEE...

I UNDER-STAND.
SORRY FOR ASKING SUCH A BIG FAVOUR ALL OF A SUDDEN.

ELLIS.
I'M SORRY, BUT SINCE I'M THIS FELLOW'S CONTRACTED SPIRIT,
I HAVE NO INTENTION TO CHANGE TEAMS.

OH MY, SHE GOT REJECTED.
I-IT'S ALRIGHT.
YOU'RE THAT KIND OF GUY, SO I...
NOT AT ALL... I SHOULD BE THANKING YOU FOR ASKING ME.
IT'S FINE, YOU'VE STILL GOT US!
Y-YOU GUYS, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
AH, HEY, KAMITO...
HUH?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
TH...
THANKS ...

AHH...
...
...YEAH.
EARLIER, IT SEEMED LIKE YOU WANTED TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING. WHAT WAS IT?
A... AH-
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU HAD ENOUGH TEAM MEMBERS FOR THE BLADE DANCE...
THAT REMINDS ME, RINSLET...
WHA- WHAT IS IT!?

LOOKS LIKE I STRUCK A NERVE WITH MY QUESTION.
AHH... FROM THE WAY YOU LOOK, NOT YET, EH?
UH...

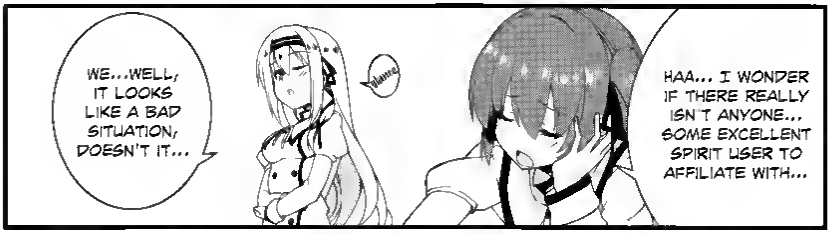
IT... IT'S JUST THAT I CAN'T FIND SOMEONE I AGREE WITH!

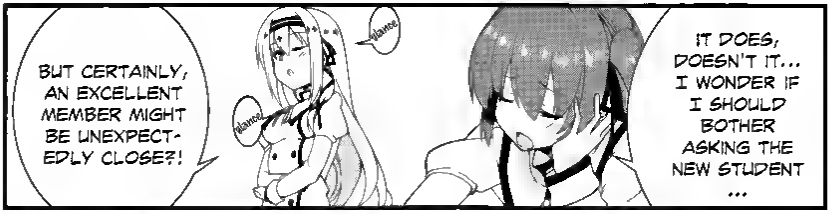
I'M SURE YOU'RE ALREADY SETTLED?
IT'S JUST THAT NONE ARE UNABLE TO SATIFY MY DEMANDS!

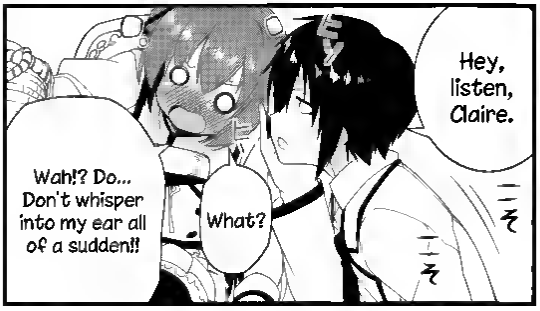
I COMPLETELY AGREE...
WELL, SHE'S DEFINITELY ALOOF, BUT EVEN SO, SHE'S ACTUALLY A NICE GIRL.

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...
SO RINSLET IS NOT A TEAM PLAYER EITHER?
SO SHE FORMED AND BROKE TEAMS REPEATEDLY, AND NOW JUST ASKS ANYONE...
HER REQUIREMENTS FOR A COMPANION ARE JUST A BIT TOO HIGH,

CAROL!!
ABOUT THE ORDER IN WHICH OJOU-SAMA WASHES HER BODY!
CAROL, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING TO KAMITO ABOUT?


WE...WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE A BAD SITUATION, DOESN'T IT...
HAA... I WONDER IF THERE REALLY ISN'T ANYONE... SOME EXCELLENT SPIRIT USER TO AFFILIATE WITH...


BUT CERTAINLY, AN EXCELLENT MEMBER MIGHT BE UNEXPECT-EDLY CLOSE?!
IT DOES, DOESN'T IT... I WONDER IF I SHOULD BOTHER ASKING THE NEW STUDENT ...


Hey, listen, Claire.
What?
Wah!? Do... Don't whisper into my ear all of a sudden!!

AHH...
SERI-OUSLY ...

Even I have to admit that she's competent, but it's no use.
Didn't you realize during the fight with Ellis earlier?
An archer that stands out to that degree... She doesn't even think about things like teamwork.
Since that ojou-sama is virtually asking for it, can't you just let her in?
Absolutely not.
Be-Besides, she... With you...
?
Anyway, it's impossible!
What are you two secretly going on about!?
Don't say such things! Isn't she like, totally poor?
Well?
I will ask just in case.

PFFT.
TOO STRAIGHT-FORWARD!!
HEY RINSLET, DO YOU WANT TO JOIN OUR TEAM?
AH, WHAT!
ISN'T IT THAT YOU WANT TO JOIN MY TEAM?
HUH?
GET OFF IT! IT'S YOU WHO WILL JOIN MY TEAM!
REJECTED, REJECTED! SINCE YOU TWO WILL JOIN MY TEAM!
SAME DIFFERENCE, REALLY...

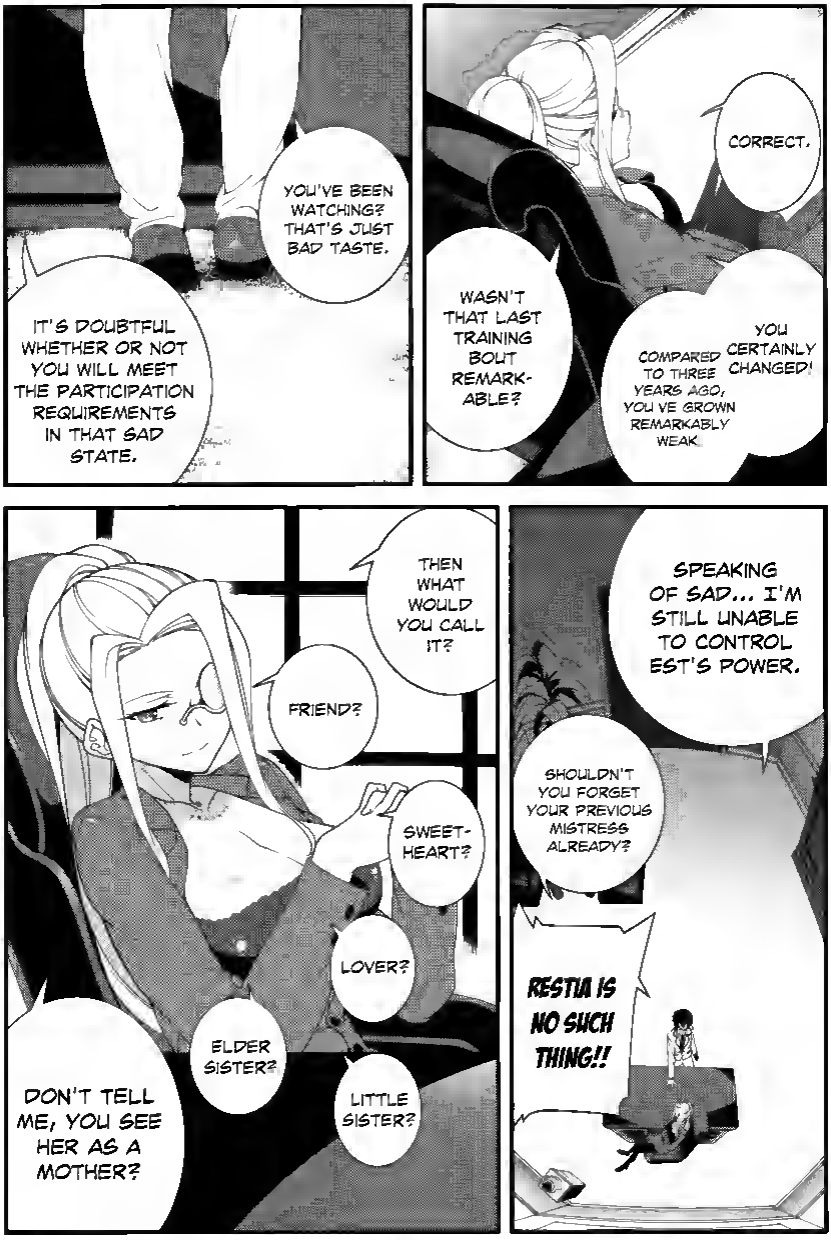
IT'S
NOT THE ENTIRELY
SAME AT DIFFERENT
ALL!! !!

IT'S A SUMMON FROM THE DIRECTOR. PLEASE COME AT ONCE!

SEEMS LIKE I GO BY LICENTIOUS BEAST NOW ...
IF IT'S ME, I'M HERE!
IS THE LICENTIOUS BEAST KAZEHAYA KAMITO HERE?

A TEAM WITH THOSE GUYS IS ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE ...

YOU SURE TOOK YOUR TIME.
HOW LONG WERE YOU GOING TO MAKE ME WAIT?
DID I?
IF I'M LATE, I'M SORRY! SURELY THERE'S NO WAY I FALTERED IN MY STEPS UNCONSCIOUSLY WHILE COMPLYING WITH YOUR ORDER.
ISN'T IT TIME TO SHUT THAT SURPRISINGLY IMPERTINENT MOUTH OF YOURS?
I WONDER WHERE THE OBEDIENT PURE BOY OF THE OLD DAYS WENT...
HE'S IN A REBELLIOUS STAGE.
ONLY YOU NEVER CHANGE, GREYWORTH.
YOUR APPEARANCE,
AS WELL AS YOUR WONDERFUL CHARACTER.


YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING? THAT'S JUST BAD TASTE.
IT'S DOUBTFUL WHETHER OR NOT YOU WILL MEET THE PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS IN THAT SAD STATE.
CORRECT.
WASN'T THAT LAST TRAINING BOUT REMARK-ABLE?
YOU CERTAINLY CHANGED! COMPARED TO THREE YEARS AGO, YOU'VE GROWN REMARKABLY WEAK.
THEN WHAT WOULD YOU CALL IT?
FRIEND?
SWEET-HEART?
LOVER?
ELDER SISTER?
LITTLE SISTER?
DON'T TELL ME, YOU SEE HER AS A MOTHER?
SPEAKING OF SAD... I'M STILL UNABLE TO CONTROL EST'S POWER.
SHOULDN'T YOU FORGET YOUR PREVIOUS MISTRESS ALREADY?
RESTIA IS NO SUCH THING!!

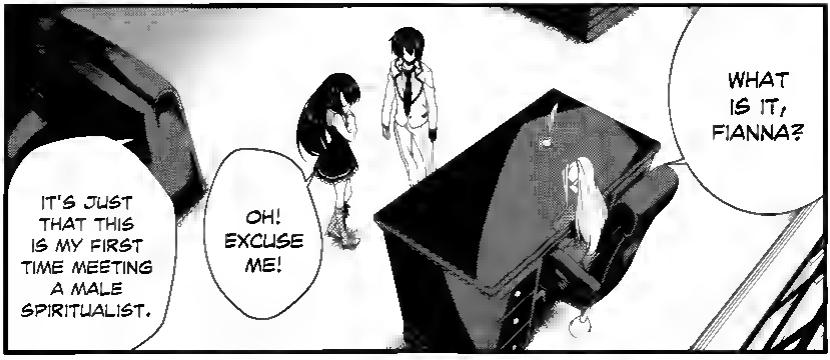
DID YOU CALL ME FOR THE PURPOSE OF JESTING, GREYWORTH?
ALRIGHT, PLEASE ENTER!
WELL, YES, BUT THERE'S ALSO A GIRL I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO.
ガチャ
THAT'S NOT AN ALESIAN UNIFORM?
DIDN'T THEY WEAR SUCH OUTFITS IN ORDESIA...?

精霊使いの剣舞

ARE YOU KAZEHAYA KAMITO?
THAT'S ME, BUT...
WHA... WHAT IS IT?
BUT, MY NOTION WAS ENTIRELY...

HUH.
WELL...

?
?
?
THAT'S IT! YOU'RE A BOY, AND IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS ALREADY.


WHAT IS IT, FIANNA?
OH! EXCUSE ME!
IT'S JUST THAT THIS IS MY FIRST TIME MEETING A MALE SPIRITUALIST.

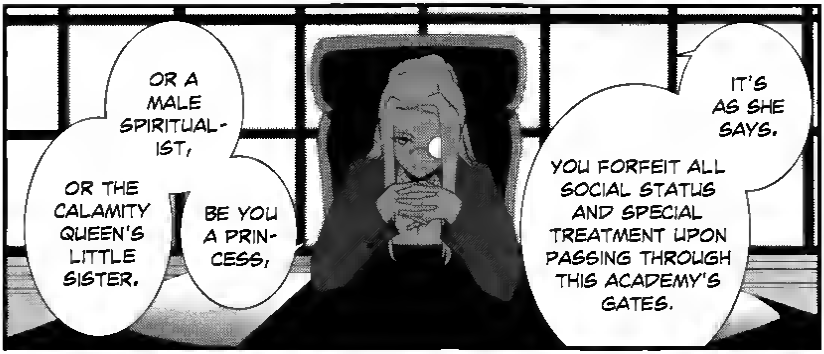
AS I THOUGHT, YOU DON'T REMEMBER.
WELL, IT'S FINE.

GREY-WORTH... WHO'S THIS GIRL?
SHE'S THE NEWLY ADMITTED STUDENT THAT HAS BEEN ALLOTTED TO THE RAVEN CLASS.
NEWLY ADMITTED STUDENT?

ORDESIA ...
DON'T TELL ME-!

HER HIGHNESS, PRINCESS FIANNA RAY ORDESIA.
SHE'S THE SECOND PRINCESS OF THE ORDESIAN EMPIRE.

SHE'S NOT JUST NOBILITY ...
SHE'S PART OF THIS EMPIRE'S ROYAL FAMILY!!
YOUR HIGHNESS, I BEG YOU TO FORGIVE MY IMPERTINENCE.
THE LOST QUEEN?
I'VE HEARD RUMORS ABOUT IT.
SHE WAS THE BACKUP PRINCESS SHRINE MAIDEN TO FILL IN FOR RUBIA... CLAIRE'S SISTER WHO BETRAYED THE FIRE ELEMENTAL LORD.
BUT WHILE THE REASON FOR HER REFUSING AND STEPPING DOWN WASN'T MADE PUBLIC... I HEARD SHE'S TREATED AS A BLACK SHEEP BY THE ROYAL FAMILY.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
WE'RE EQUAL STUDENTS OF THIS ACADEMY.
BESIDES, I'M THE LOST QUEEN... I LOST ALL MY SOCIAL STATUS ALREADY.


IT'S AS SHE SAYS.
YOU FORFEIT ALL SOCIAL STATUS AND SPECIAL TREATMENT UPON PASSING THROUGH THIS ACADEMY'S GATES.
BE YOU A PRINCESS,
OR A MALE SPIRITUALIST,
OR THE CALAMITY QUEEN'S LITTLE SISTER.

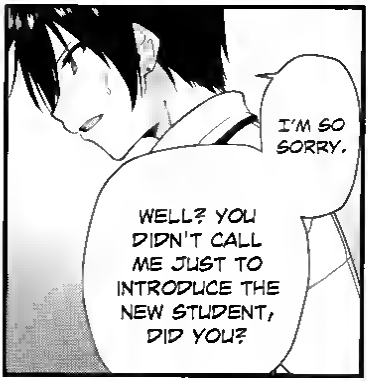
?
WHAT'S WRONG?
NO... YOUR...

THEREFORE, EVEN THOUGH
I'M A FORMER PRINCESS, NICE TO MEET YOU, KAMITO-KUN.

UH... ALRIGHT
IT'S NICE TO MEET ...
EH!

KYAA!
Ka-Kamito-kun, you pervert!
SO-SORRY ...

DO THAT SOMEWHERE ELSE, I'M GETTING IRRITATED.


I'M SO SORRY.
WELL? YOU DIDN'T CALL ME JUST TO INTRODUCE THE NEW STUDENT, DID YOU?

AH!

SPECIAL QUESTS, YOU SAY?
THEY WEREN'T PART OF THE ACADEMY'S TASK SYSTEM?
THAT'S RIGHT. AND I WANT TO ENTRUST THIS TO HER.
YOU GREW UP TO BE A DEEPLY MISTRUSTING CHILD.
EVEN THOUGH I SPECIFICALLY PREPARED SPECIAL QUESTS FOR YOUR SAKE.

EXCAVATING A SEALED SPIRIT...
I WANT YOUR TEAM TO ACCOMPANY HER AS A GUARD.
MERELY CLEARING THOSE QUESTS LIKE THAT WON'T GET YOU INTO THE BLADE DANCE ON TIME.
SUBDUING A RAMPAGING SPIRIT...
PERFORMING KAGURA WITH BLADE DANCE...
RIGHT NOW, YOUR TEAM'S RANKING IS WAY BELOW THE LINE.

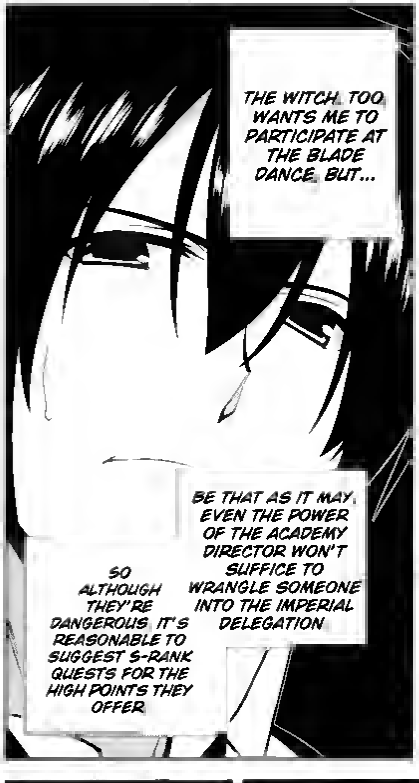
TL Note: Kagura is a traditional shinto performance of dance and music

CERTAINLY, WE SHOULDN'T BE PRIVILEGED TO RECEIVE S-RANK QUESTS OUTSIDE THE RANKING SYSTEM.
HAVE YOU BEEN THE ONE PULLING THE STRINGS BEHIND THE SCENES?
PERHAPS, I WAS PULLING THE STRINGS?

DISAP-POINTED THAT I'M NOT BEHIND IT, BOY?
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU I WANTED TO ENTRUST IT TO THIS GIRL.
……

IS THIS A GODSEND?

…EH.
FIANNA?
YES.
ISN'T TRAVELLING AROUND THE WORLD WITH THE RARE MALE SPI-RITUALIST GRAND?

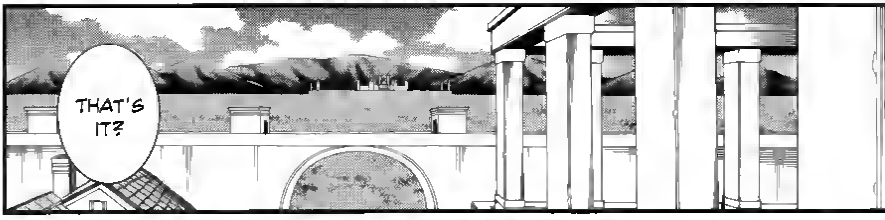

THE WITCH, TOO, WANTS ME TO PARTICIPATE AT THE BLADE DANCE. BUT...
BE THAT AS IT MAY, EVEN THE POWER OF THE ACADEMY DIRECTOR WON'T SUFFICE TO WRANGLE SOMEONE INTO THE IMPERIAL DELEGATION
SO ALTHOUGH THEY'RE DANGEROUS, IT'S REASONABLE TO SUGGEST S-RANK QUESTS FOR THE HIGH POINTS THEY OFFER.

WE ALREADY FRITTERED AWAY TWO MONTHS TOWARDS THE BLADE DANCE'S OPENING CEREMONY.
THE THREE PARTICIPATING TEAMS WILL BE DETERMINED... EVEN SOONER.
AT THIS PACE, EVEN IF WE EXCEL AT NORMAL QUESTS AND BOUTS, MOST LIKELY...

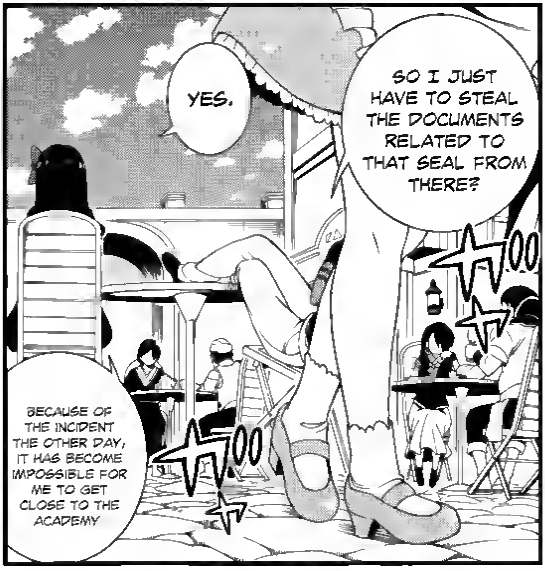
BUT IF WE CAN'T COMPLETE THIS TASK, CLAIRE AND I ARE SCREWED...

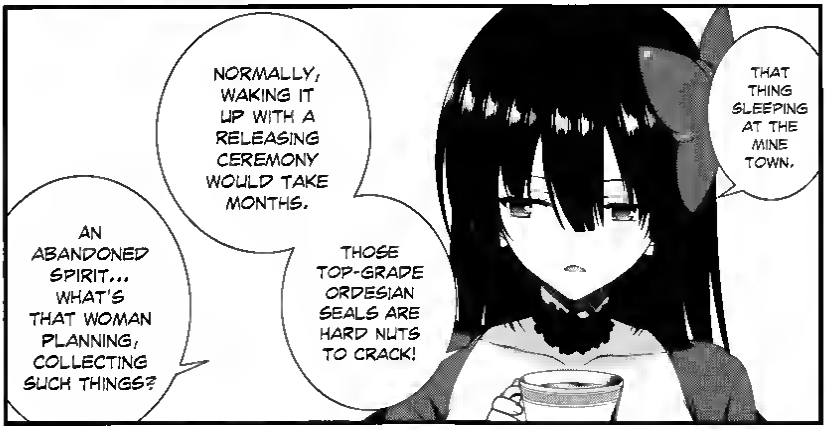
I HAVE NO IDEA WHY IN THE WORLD THIS GIRL WOULD NOMINATE ME...
I'M RELYING ON YOU, KAMITO-KUN.

ALRIGHT.
TELL ME THE DETAILS.
NOW WE'RE TALKING.


THAT'S IT?

TSK, HOW TROUBLE-SOME!
WHY IS IT THAT WE STILL NEED THAT PERSON?

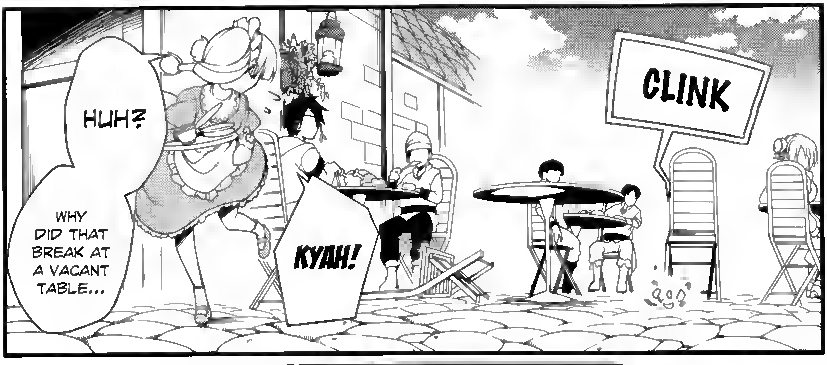

YES.
SO I JUST HAVE TO STEAL THE DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THAT SEAL FROM THERE?
BECAUSE OF THE INCIDENT THE OTHER DAY, IT HAS BECOME IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO GET CLOSE TO THE ACADEMY


THAT THING SLEEPING AT THE MINE TOWN.
NORMALLY, WAKING IT UP WITH A RELEASING CEREMONY WOULD TAKE MONTHS.
THOSE TOP-GRADE ORDESIAN SEALS ARE HARD NUTS TO CRACK!
AN ABANDONED SPIRIT... WHAT'S THAT WOMAN PLANNING, COLLECTING SUCH THINGS?

YOU ARE NOT QUALIFIED TO KNOW HER INTENTIONS.
PLEASE HAVE PATIENCE, JIO.
AND THAT MILITARY SPIRIT... THE ORDER WAS TO STEAL IT FROM THE CAPITAL, AND YOU WASTE IT ON THAT GOOD-FOR-NOTHING BRAT?
OH, WILL YOU VANQUISH HIM?
IF THAT'S SO, GOOD ENOUGH. VANQUISHING A POWERLESS ENEMY IS MEANINGLESS.
HE STILL HASN'T AWA-KENED.
WE WERE ABLE TO SEE HIS CURRENT STRENGTH, SO AREN'T YOU SATIS-FIED?
I WAS DISAP-POINTED!
THAT'S THE LEVEL OF THE SO-CALLED STRONGEST?

I WILL.
I WILL PROVE IT TO YOU AS WELL, RESTIA.

THAT THIS JIO INZAGI IS THE TRUE SUCCESSOR OF THE DEMON KING.
I WILL MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF YOUR WIELDER!


CLINK
HUH?
WHY DID THAT BREAK AT A VACANT TABLE...
KYAH!

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